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## Address Delivered for the Redding Rotary Club on the 50th Anniversary of the Rotary International

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ADDRESS DELIVERED BY JUSTICE JESSE W. CARTER  
OF THE SUPREME COURT OF CALIFORNIA  
FOR THE REDDING ROTARY CLUB AT REDDING, CALIFORNIA,  
ON FEBRUARY THE 24TH, 1955  
ON THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

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Yesterday, February 23rd of this year, marks the 50th birthday of Rotary which was not only an idea but an ideal based upon a concept of universal fellowship. In Chicago, in 1905, Paul Harris, a lonely young attorney, and Silvester Schiele, a coal dealer, Gustavus Loehr, a mining engineer, and Hiram Shorey, a master tailor, formed the world's first Rotary Club. Since that time 8,418 Rotary Clubs in 89 different countries on all six continents have been formed with a world membership of nearly 400,000 business and professional executives all united in an international fellowship. What will the speaker at Rotary's 100th birthday have to say about the number of clubs and members and about international fellowship? I should have placed "international fellowship"

first because in my opinion any increase in membership will depend on how well all of us adhere to, and foster, the ideals of Rotary.

Rotary is based on "service above self" -- service to one's fellowman. Such service is promotive of good citizenship and citizenship is based on a united people. We should have a united people -- not only on a national basis, but on an international basis if we are to have world peace. Rotary seeks to draw men, and nations, closer together in a spirit of peace and harmony. Peace and harmony cannot prevail in a world divided against itself, so Rotarians the world over must remember to practice the ideals of fellowship on which Rotary is based.

The true Rotary spirit has been said to be "not the selfish one of trying to see how much you can get out of your fellow members, but the more altruistic one of trying to see how much benefit and good you can do for your fellow members. If everyone in the world today really lived by this creed there

would be no hate, tryanny, oppression, fear, suspicion, distrust and, finally, no more wars. Cicero said "Friendship is nothing else than an accord in all things, human and divine, conjoined with mutual goodwill and affection." By emphasizing the things on which all men can agree, Rotary strives to overcome the barriers of time and distance, replacing suspicion and misunderstanding with friendship, mutual respect and confidence. Where freedom, justice, and respect for human rights do not exist, Rotary and the ideal for which it stands cannot survive.

Rotary draws no color line; it makes no religious discrimination; its ideals find expression where there is liberty of the individual, freedom of thought, speech and assembly, freedom of worship, freedom from persecution and aggression and freedom from want and fear. It is the individual duty of each Rotarian to hasten the day when war may no longer be used as an instrument for settling international disputes. In order to achieve this salutary end, it will be necessary for each individual to keep an open mind so that he may, in

conjunction with other individuals, advance international understanding and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional men united in the ideal of service.

1 In order to achieve world <sup>understanding</sup> fellowship, ~~(tolerance~~ must be substituted for hate; logic for madness; fair-play for character assassination, and truth for falsehood. So long as there are bitter, closed minds, which recognize only what they perceive as black or white, with no intervening grey shades, we cannot have world <sup>understanding</sup> ~~fellowship~~ because we have intolerance. If one is intolerant and condemns the ideas and ideals of all those who disagree, there can be no fellowship, or peace or harmony, but only discord and strife. When we have come to believe that our constitutionally guaranteed freedoms of speech, thought, and religion are not mere empty words but living principles to be daily applied, then we shall have achieved our goal. I continue to be amazed by the bitterness and closed minds exhibited by so many persons -- so many sweeping statements are made without supporting evidence; so many rumors are passed on

without inquiry regarding their truth or falsity; so many people act first and think later when it is probably too late to rectify the wrong done. So many innocent persons are irreparably injured because someone spoke without remembering that the constitutional freedoms are for all -- not for just a few.     ))

— Friendship, the Rotarian ideal, is the antithesis of hate. Intolerance breeds hate and where we have groups of intolerant men we have "hate groups." The House of Representatives Un-American Activities Committee describes the "hate groups" this way: "One which masquerades as a defender of our republican form of government, yet conducts hate campaigns against racial and religious minorities in the infamous tradition of the Fascist dictatorships

"Those who would support the extreme right today do as great violence to our democratic institutions as those on the extreme left. Furthermore, the appearance of neo-Fascist organizations and methods in the postwar period can only serve

to impede the intelligent, united effort necessary in the current life-and-death struggle with Communism.

Rotary Clubs cannot exist where hate and intolerance are the rule rather than the exception. It is noteworthy that Russia is not listed in the Golden Anniversary issue of "The Rotarian" as a country having Rotary Clubs. Because the Iron Curtain is drawn so closely around the affairs of that country, it is impossible to say what conditions there prevail. From what we do know of Russia's unfriendly and uncooperative attitude, we may safely assume that Rotary's ideal of world friendship would not be welcome there. Recognizing Russia's attitude, however, is a vastly different thing from the prevalent practice of thoughtlessly, and without regard to cold, hard facts, labelling everyone who disagrees with us as a Communist.

The "hate groups" with their rumors, biased pre-judgments and intolerant attitudes toward minorities are among the worst enemies this country has. In addition, since

they violate the Constitution of this country, they are not true Americans. They want freedom of speech only for themselves -- freedom of religion only for themselves. They choose not to remember that when this country declared its independence, it was stated without equivocation "that all men are created equal." ~~I know of nothing that has occurred since then to change that "self-evident" truth.~~

The characteristics which make up the "hate groups" are the same characteristics which lead to war. If Americans would remember the great principles on which this country was founded and seek by individual example to spread tolerance love and good fellowship for their fellow man, without regard to color, race, creed or political belief, we would have no wars to wreak havoc on human beings and create poverty, desolation on every countryside touched directly and indirectly by the terrible hand of hate and greed. It is indeed unfortunate that too often our fundamental concepts of humanity are remembered only while commemorating the dead after a war



Chaplain Roland B. Gittlesohn said almost all there was to say in his address at the Marine Cemetery at Iwo Jima, when he spoke to us "The Living." He reminded us, because there is nothing new in what he said, that "Under one of these Christian crosses, or beneath a Jewish Star of David, there may rest now a man who was destined to be a great prophet -- to find the way, perhaps, for all to live in plenty, with poverty and hardship for none. Now they lie here silently in this sacred soil, and we gather to consecrate this earth in their memory

"Here lie officers and men, Negroes and whites, rich men and poor -- together. Here no man prefers another because of his faith or despises him because of his color. Here there are no quotas of how many from each group are admitted or allowed. Among these men there is no discrimination. No prejudices. No hatred. Theirs is the highest and purest democracy

"Any man among us, the living, who fails to understand that, will thereby betray those who lie here dead. Whoever of

us lifts his hand in hate against a brother, or thinks himself superior to those who happen to be in the minority, makes of ceremony and the bloody sacrifice it commemorates an empty, hollow mockery."

Last July I granted a stay of execution to Caryl Chessman under sentence of death in San Quentin's gas chamber. Because of the widespread publicity he had received as the result of a book he had written while in Death Row, I received many letters commending and condemning my action. Some of the comments were constructive, but others charged me with being a Jew-lover, a dirty Catholic or a Communist. One letter said: "You must be Jewish or a Jew-lover. What is your ancestry? Don't you know that Jews are like termites being used by Communists to bore from within?" I do not know what Chessman's ancestry was, or whether he professes a religious creed. My only thought in granting him a stay of execution was to see he be accorded equal justice under law.

I do know that my forefathers came from England and

Ireland and I do not have a drop of Jewish blood in my veins. But if I did, I would hold my head high and be proud. How many wonderful fellow citizens in all walks of life come from the Jewish race? The same is true of the Irish, the Italians, the Germans, the Scandinavians, Mexicans, Negroes, Chinese and all the others who have become part of this wonderful American brotherhood. While I am not a Catholic I am proud to number among my closest friends and people I admire tremendously, individuals who are members of the Roman Catholic Church.

Wherever you go overseas in American cemeteries there are Star of David crosses above the brave and sleeping Abraham Goldsteins. Beside them lie their buddies and comrades in arms. The Michael Kellys, Otto Schmidts, Ole Hansons, the Pedro Martinezes, and the Andy Browns -- Americans all.

The extremists in our country want to deny citizens of different color, religious creeds and legitimate political beliefs the very rights guaranteed by the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States.

In too many parts of our nation, organizations are springing up under the guise of fighting Communism to preach hatred of Jews, Negroes, Catholics or other religious or national groups. The House of Representatives Un-American Activities Committee quite correctly calls these organizations "hate groups." Such individuals apparently know little of the gentleness and tolerance of Abraham Lincoln or the wise and just statement of Thomas Jefferson when he declared: "The function of government is to restrain men from injuring one another, but leaving them otherwise free to follow their own pursuits of industry and employment."

There should be an end to this campaign to call anyone a Communist who does not agree with you. Why even that great statesman, the late Senator Robert A. Taft, was once called a follower of the Communist line by real estate lobbyists because he was in favor of public housing. It is a sad situation, especially in our country, when even freedom of religion is threatened. Religious persecution was supposed to

be obsolete many decades ago. Our forefathers came here so they could worship God in their own fashion. Must we always impute false motives and a lack of patriotism to those with whom we disagree? Must we be told over and over again at ceremonies such as the one at Iwo Jima that all men are brothers -- all men are equal -- that all men were born free? That we must be tolerant?

To put it straight, I believe that anyone who makes an issue of birthplace, creed or race is not only unfair and un-American, but cowardly. It is striking a blow below the belt, and a foul which disqualifies the contestant. We may disagree but I shall defend your right to express your views so long as they do not create a clear and present danger to our beloved country. I only hope that each of us, in presenting our attitudes, will base our conclusions on hard facts and that we study all phases of a question before coming to sweeping conclusions.

Rotary International is a great force for good; it is

a powerful force toward world brotherhood. In fact, the very principles underlying true Americanism, underlie Rotary.

Rotary calls upon the individual to consider his citizenship in its relation to the community, the nation and the world. It offers no panacea, nor is there one, for curing the ills of the world or of mankind. It seeks through the individual contact of one member with another, throughout all the countries of the world, to spread the knowledge and the spirit to create the desire among all peoples for understanding, good will and peace. Its ideals find expression where there is liberty of the individual, freedom of thought, speech, and religion. Freedom, justice, sanctity of the pledged word and respect for human rights are inherent in Rotary principles and are vital to the maintenance of international peace and order and to human progress. The very structure of Rotary has given it a special mission. It has developed from a single seed into a worldwide organization. It has driven its roots into most of the nations which make up the free world. Its principles are being spread

into almost every country. It holds together men who speak different languages, who are loyal to their own nations, but find in that loyalty no deterrent to a wider and deeper devotion, a devotion to the proposition that a selfless service to mankind transcends, but does not deny, nationality.

One of the important ways in which Rotary International is forwarding international friendship and good will is through its Foundation Fellowships for worthy students in their senior year in college or university. Young men and women with potential leadership qualities are given an opportunity to continue their studies for one year in a university or college of their choice in a country other than their own. I know of no better way to promote world peace for tomorrow than to start with the youth of today, for they are the men and women who will be responsible for their respective countries in the future. The Rotary Fellows who have completed their studies have, for the most part, returned to their home countries where they are now engaged in many different fields of work

government and diplomatic service, education, theology, medicine, engineering and almost every branch of endeavor. Some of them will become experts in the field of international relations, and many others because of their leadership qualities

the knowledge gained in their studies will be able to make outstanding contributions in their specialized fields. It is interesting to note that one of the conditions upon which a Rotary Fellowship is granted is the agreement, on the part of the student, that he will take advantage of every opportunity to promote international understanding and goodwill. In addition to the fellowships, thousands of young people from all parts of the world are attending college in a country other than their own. Rotary Clubs in numerous cities where there are colleges

universities extend to these students temporary privileges as international guests, arrange visits to local industrial plants, extend invitations to participate in the club activities and welcome them into the homes of members for visits. What better way to promote international goodwill than through the



men and women of tomorrow? Or to build future good citizenship?

Good citizenship is made up of a number of things loyalty and service to one's own community; neighborliness, courtesy, consideration, unselfishness, friendliness, tolerance of the beliefs of others all are needed before the goal is reached. And all of these attributes are summed up in the phrase which Rotary has adopted as its motto: "Service above self -- He profits most who serves best."

Another important way in which Rotary International is serving humanity and promoting international goodwill is through contributions for war relief. Rotarians throughout the world took care of hundreds of "war orphans," or "war-phans" as the Chinese called them; they entertained American and British flyers; they maintained refugee camps; they supported a school for the blind in Wuchang; they sponsored a leprosy clinic; they maintained beggars' camps; the Rotarians in this country collected and sent clothing to war-torn Europe; food was sent to fellow Rotarians in Europe and their families in prisoner of war

and civilian concentration camps. After World War II had concluded, at least so far as actual hostilities were concerned, Rotary made funds available for medicine, food, clothing, bedding and the like to Rotarians who had been made homeless and destitute by the war. Rotarians thus showed that their protestations of friendship and goodwill were not mere empty words, but a true brotherhood of man, regardless of color, creed, or nationality. I am quite sure that no one hates war more than those who have fought the enemy or suffered loss of family, friends, and home because of it. War hits the minds of men with a terrible impact -- it causes fear and distrust of one's neighbors -- individual freedom succumbs to savage persecution; the vocational and spiritual growth of the individual is warped and frustrated by a sense of doom. Thus, acts and words and deeds of friendship to those made friendless by war in their own countries will perhaps fall on fertile fields and as the Sanskrit proverb proclaims, if we "Meet our neighbor and talk with him, there will be peace."

So Rotary marches on as an association of men of goodwill espousing the ideal of service. As its principles "Service above self" "He profits most who serves best" are exemplified by its members, it will become a great power for good throughout the world. It has been truly said that there is no better way of judging the future than by the past. We know that Rotary enjoys an illustrious past which will remain secure for all time. As for the future, I am sure that the ideals of Rotary will become stronger in the hearts of men. Out of the welter of hopes and fears, aims and ambitions, Rotary will continue to grow and become stronger to the extent that individual Rotarian seeks to develop better human relationships, whether it is with men of other countries, races, cultures or right in our own communities.

The past rises before me like a dream. Looking backward approximately 35 years ago, this community was divided into factions -- social, business and political -- which were so bitter toward each other that there was no common meeting

ground. It would serve no purpose now to attempt to place responsibility on any group or individual for the strife which existed, but there can be no doubt that it was very real and damaging to the community. As I traveled around over the state, I attended Rotary meetings as a guest and learned what Rotary stood for, and thought it would be good for Redding. In February or March of 1924, I called together in my office a small group of business and professional men of this community and discussed with them the matter of forming a Rotary Club in Redding. These men were associated with the different factions which then existed and were not all of one mind by any means. After several meetings at my office, a group of sixteen men finally agreed to become charter members of the Redding Rotary Club and the Club was formed by this group. I do not remember the date, but it was sometime in March or April of 1924, a group from the Chico Rotary Club came to Redding and initiated us into Rotary. It was an original and informal initiation. Each of our members was pinned into a diaper and given a bottle of

milk with a nipple and required to drink the milk through the nipple. We were then given instructions as to how to conduct a Rotary meeting and, when the ceremony was over, all of the neophytes felt that they had been duly indoctrinated into a new philosophy of fellowship. The record shows that I was elected president and Leslie Engram secretary and the club proceeded to function from that day forward.

On May 20th, 1924, the district governor and officers of this Rotary district arrived and presented the charter which I recall made us Club Number 1780.

I do not have to tell you that the club has come a long way since that meager and humble beginning, and I am happy to state that I had the privilege and the pleasure of seeing men from all of the conflicting factions sit around the tables at Rotary meetings and felicitate with each other in a bond of Rotary fellowship. Even I was surprised when I came to the realization that I could not only speak to some of the men whom I thought were my enemies but could call all of them by their

first names and enjoy discussing problems of mutual interest with them.

I am indeed happy to be here today and to recall these events of approximately 31 years ago when the club was in its embryo stage and see it now with its 99 active members representing the elite of the business and professional men of the community performing an outstanding community service with twelve major committees seeking to advance and promote the community welfare in every field of civic and social activity. I say I am happy to observe this progress in the advancement of social, and I am sure, to some extent, the economic welfare of the business and professional men of this community through the dissemination of the ideals of Rotary.

But to me there is a note of sadness when I look into the faces of those here today and see missing from this group every one of the men who joined with me in 1924 in the formation of this club. While some of these men are still living in other parts of the world, many of them have crossed

the Great Divide and can be with us only in spirit. They were all men who caught the vision embodied in the Rotarian ideal of "service above self" and felt that life would be more beautiful if men lived and worked together in an atmosphere of good fellowship where each sought to advance and promote the welfare of his fellow man. I pay respectful tribute to these men who united under the Rotary banner for the advancement of the ideals of Rotary in the days when it was necessary to overcome a strong feeling of prejudice and ill-will in order to yield to the philosophy of harmony and good fellowship which pervades the atmosphere of every Rotary meeting. As I look around this room today and see the outstanding business and professional men of the community represented here, and contemplate what this club has accomplished and will accomplish in the future in the way of social and civic progress in this community, I feel that I can truly say that these men back in the year 1924 when they organized the Redding Rotary Club "builded better than they knew."